

## Aum Sri Sai Ram

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is an Indian spiritual leader, with followers in over 173 countries in the world. The superlative social and spiritual leadership of Bhagavan has inspired millions of individuals and organizations to follow Him and implement His ideas elsewhere in the world. Sri Sathya Sai Baba's education in human values program has attracted many world leaders so that countries like Thailand, Argentina and Zambia have implemented that program in some of their public school systems. His concept of free medical care for the needy is taking seed in many countries. Water supply projects following the example of Sai Baba are taking shape in various parts of the world. Many organizations all over the world have constructed buildings to conduct spiritual and social service activities based on His teachings. His basic philosophy is that all humans are essentially divine and that the differences one sees are of one's own making. He teaches that all religions have the same basic or core values of mutual love, duty, truth, peace and nonviolence. By example He instructs us to do good to fellow humans in need and reminds us of our obligation to love all.

His followers have experienced His spiritual guidance and have bettered their lives. Thousands of them visit Him at His home village of Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh or Whitefield near Bangalore, India. Sai Baba personally meets some of them in groups, advises them in spiritual and service responsibilities, as well as shows paths to solve personal difficulties. Followers in some countries such as Argentina, Canada, New Zealand, Guyana, Zambia, to name a few, have constructed buildings to assemble regularly to conduct spiritual education classes for adults and children and to practice His teachings by serving the local needy.

The first building of this kind in the United States is being constructed in Howell, NJ. A group of Sai Baba's followers formed the Sarva Dharma Service Center and are in the process of making this a reality. They have acquired a nine-acre land in pristine surroundings, drawn architectural plans and are moving ahead with the beginning of construction. Sri Sathya Sai Baba has personally perused these plans, approved them and gave a budget for this building. The township has approved the site plans unanimously. After ceremonial prayers in 2003, the area was cleared of bushes and trees in 2004 and construction is scheduled to start at the end of March 2006.

When completed in two phases, this building will have a large prayer hall and a spacious room for Bhagavan and four large rooms for spiritual education classes and other service activities. Additionally, a playground for children and parking facilities will be available.

Sai Baba's followers strongly feel His unseen hand behind the progress of the project. They were able to buy the 9 acre land at one fourth the usual cost. Volunteers who came on board the project at the right time did all of the engineering work. Many thousands of dollars were saved by actions of unknown individuals.

Ever since the conception of this project, Baba's followers have been presenting progress reports to Him on an annual basis, getting direct advice and putting into practice what they have been instructed by Him.

After the building is completed, the activities to be performed in the building include, among others, Education in human values for children; inter religious conferences for service activities in and around Howell and to promote recognition of all life as divine.

Further information may be obtained from the Sarva Dharma web site:  
<http://www.sai-service.org/>